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THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF HELMSLEY

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1947

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TO THE HELMSLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health for the Combined District, for the Year ending December 31st, 1947.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area of Helmsley Union	67.705 acres
Resident Population in 1947	5,760
Dwellings structurally separate	1,529
Council Houses in occupation	115
Rateable Value (full)	£18,700
Penny Rate (sum represented)	£73
Parishes in Area	27

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Food and Clothing are still strictly controlled. Labour remains below the normal. Housewives complain of considerable difficulty in getting domestic assistance. The use of mechanical means, especially in the larger farms, is now employed to a great extent, and heavy horses are becoming rarer. The farmer's market trap has given place to the motor-car, although the ration of petrol was severely restricted. By the end of the year there were few soldiers camped in the disrtict.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births—Total 95	Male	Female
Legitimate	49	46
Illegitimate	0	3
Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident Population 16.4		

Still Births—Total 4	Male	Female
Legitimate	3	1
Illegitimate	0	0
Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births—		41.4

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total 5.

Legitimate	4	1
Illegitimate	0	0

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births 51.5.

Deaths—All causes 64.

Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident Population 11.1.

SECTION B.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These were satisfactory during the year 1947. In July 4th 1948 all ambulances will be under the jurisdiction of the Government and regulated by the officers of the Local Health Authority. The staff employed will, to all intents, remain as before. It is understood that all vehicles originally provided by Ambulance Committees will be received by Local Health Authorities who will pay the market value, after handing them over.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

During 1947 Home Nursing was carried out by the District Nurse. Under the New Health Scheme it is likely that the Home Nursing will come under the County Authority. A meeting of the Nursing Committee will meet during the Summer,, and the new regulations will be formulated.

SECTION C.

The Sanitation of the District is fairly satisfactory under the restrictions prevailing. Labour is difficult to get ; but no serious nuisance has been found. Details of the work done are given by the Sanitary Inspector in his Report.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The survey of Houses was held up at the end of April on account of the termination of the appointment of the Assistant Sanitary Inspector. Some overcrowding was inevitable due to the lack of houses, it was not serious and no illness could be attributed on that account. The Survey will be completed as soon as there is a sufficient staff. All the Housing carried out under the Council's Housing programme were of a permanent type. The Ashdale Road 9 three-bedroom houses built of brick were quickly occupied, and other 8 were being erected on the same site and would be completed during the year. In addition Gilling East, Beadlam, Ampleforth and Harome would get 19 new houses at an early date. Six stone-built houses containing 3 bedrooms were nearly ready for occupation in Sproxton. Some 26 Airey Houses were in contemplation for erection in Beadlam and Harome, and 4 three-bedroom Houses will be erected in Oswaldkirk. In addition 4 houses in Ampleforth and 3 in Rievaulx were completed and occupied, built by private enterprise ; and 2 others are building. The Council owned 112 houses in various parts. The details are given by the Sanitary Inspector. The defects remedied in houses are given in his Report. The Sewage disposal, with the exception of Helmsley and Oswaldkirk, is by means of septic tanks. This is by no means an ideal condition, but it is the only way in the present circumstances.

SECTION E.

MILK SUPPLY.

Milk is rationed throughout the District. An additional ration is given to expectant and nursing mothers, and school children have a mid-day milk ration. This is barely sufficient for the maintenance of health. There has been some complaint of dirty milk, and steps have been taken to remedy this. In my opinion all milk sold to the public should be pasteurised. I am aware that there is a derversity of medical opinion in respect of this. Short of this treatment, boiling is a potent means of coping with milk that is under suspicion. It has been proposed by the British Medical Association that safe milk of high quality should be provided for the community and that the matter is one of the utmost urgency.

NUTRITION.

We continued to use Food substitutes. These are good of their kind, but cannot be as satisfactory as the natural product. It is to be hoped that fresh fruit with adequate cereals will help to maintain the Public Health. Up to now I have not been able to discover any serious deterioration in Health in our District due to the food used.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat is severely restricted, and no live stock is allowed to be slaughtered in the Area. The quality of the meat is satisfactory, if of limited quantity. The distribution of meat is from the Centre at Easingwold. Fish comes into the District on two days per week, and is uniformally of excellent quality. Some articles of food were condemned by the Sanitary Inspector and are mentioned in his report.

WATER SUPPLY.

Most of the water used is by piped supply. In outlying villages and farms it comes from wells and springs. All new houses get water from stand-pipes or have water laid on. With the increase of population there is a tendency for a restriction of supply. More water is now used than ever before, as houses are now supplied with water for lavatories and bath-rooms, and the extended use of motor cars and motors on the Farms sometimes strains the supply that has hitherto been available. This demands constant supervision as indicated by the Sanitary Inspector. Hypochlorinators have been installed in Helmsley and at Cold Arbour. Unfortunately the demand for water has sometimes exceeded the supply, especially at Harome and Sproxton. Contamination of the supply of water to the Camp in Duncombe Park was found and steps were taken for chlorination. The Joint Water Board which is in contemplation will ensure a plentyful supply in the Areas of Helmsley, Kirbymoorside, Flaxton, Malton and Easingwold.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

	Total cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Measles	19	0	0
Whooping Cough	3	0	0
Pneumonia	18	0	0
Scarlet Fever	30	3	0
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	6	6	3
Polio-Enephalitis	1	1	0

Measles and Whooping-cough were notified at the beginning of the year, with one or two cases in the later months. All the Scarlet Fever cases were in Ampleforth College. The cases of Poliomyelitis were imported into the District from neighbouring towns, and were of a varying type of intensity. Precautions were immediately put into operation to isolate all contacts. Children were forbidden to assemble in groups, and cinemas were closed and attendance at Sunday Schools stopped. Precautions in the use of public telephones were taken, and all public gatherings, such as concerts and dancing came to an end. By these and other means the spread of the infection was contained. All the cases were removed to Isolation Hospitals where there were 3 deaths. At least 2 cases of infantile paralysis remained after the return of patients to their homes.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

These were under observation throughout the year and remained free from pollution. Owing possibly to the petrol restrictions there were no campers at the usual stream-side situations and the rivers and becks were clear of rubbish and other contamination.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools in the District were regularly visited and inspected. In most of them the children have a mid-day meal or milk. All the schools in the neighbourhood of the villages affected by Acute Poliomyelitis were closed — Rievaulx and Helmsley schools from 15th September until October 2nd and Harome from August 1st to October 2nd, incuding holidays. The school buildings and closets in some of these were found defective and means employed to put them in repair. Children in outlying places are conveyed to school by motor transport.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE AREA IN 1947.

	Male.	Female
Tuberculosis of Lungs	0	1
Syphilitec Disease	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	0
Cancer of oesphagus and uterus	4	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	0
Cancer of Breast	0	2
Cancer of all other sites	2	4
Diabetis	0	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	4	8
Heart Diseases	7	3
Other Circulatory Diseases	0	1
Bronchitis	1	2
Nephritis	1	0
Premature Birth	1	0
Congenital Birth Injuries and Diseases	3	1
Road Traffic Accident	1	0
Other Violent Causes	0	1
All other Causes	2	5
Influenza	0	1
Pneumonia	1	0
	—	—
Total	31	33
	—	—

CONCLUSION.

The Public Health in Helmsley Rural District was quite satisfactory during 1947. With the exception of the cases of Poliomyelitis, which were alarming at the time, the incidence of infectious disease was small. The Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 civilian population was 20.5 ; for our Area it was 16.4. Last year it was 19.1 and 14.9. Deaths from all causes were for the whole County 12.8, and in our Area 11.1 per thousand.

It gives me great pleasure to record my thanks to your Council and its Officers for their assistance and unfailing courtesy at all times. I have also to acknowledge my gratitude to my Medical Colleagues for support and consideration in all circumstances.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER C. BLAIR, M.D.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1947.

Council Offices,
Helmsley, York.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Helmsley Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department of your Council for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

The total number of visits of inspection made during the year for all purposes was 1507 and is summarised as follows :—

GENERAL SANITATION—

Drainage	58
Complaints Investigated	36
Public Conveniences	16
Factories	4
Bakehouses	9
Rats and Mice	12
Schools	5

PUBLIC CLEANSING—

Refuse Collection	21
Refuse Disposal	18
Salvage	16
Miscellaneous	102

WATER SUPPLIES—

Piethorne	81
Ampleforth	33
Helmsley	29
Gilling East	
Cawton	11
Lousy Lane	3
Oswaldkirk	1
Newton East and Laysthorpe	8
Old Byland and Wass	5
Stonegrave and Nunnington	3
Sproxton	32
Complaints investigated re water supplies	15

SEWAGE WORKS—

Helmsley	9
Oswaldkirk	5
Ampleforth	6
Gilling East	3
Harome	19
Pockley	2
Beadlam	7

HOUSING—

No. of Houses inspected under P.H. and Housing Acts	70
No of visits necessary to above houses	61
No. of visits to Council Houses	173
No. of visits to Squatters	25

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—

Visits re Disinfection	7
Enquiries re above	8

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION—

Visits to Slaughterhouses	5
Visits to Cowsheds	32
Visits to Butchers Shops	41
Visits to Grocers	24

CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL—

Visits re application for licences	193

BUILDING BYELAWS—

No. of visits re building work in progress	294

PETROL PUMPS—

No. of Visits	5
TOTAL	1507

HOUSING.

RURAL SURVEY.

The work of carrying out the survey of the houses in the Rural Area as recommended by the Rural Housing Advisory Committee proceeded during the early part of the year fairly satisfactorily but was brought to a close at the end of April when the Assistant Sanitary Inspector who had devoted the greater part of his time to this duty, terminated his appointment with the Council.

I regret to state that no further progress was made during the year owing to the fact that no new appointment was made.

Of a total of 1201 houses to be inspected under this survey 191 were surveyed in detail and plans prepared in each case. These houses were placed in the following categories :—

1.	Satisfactory in all respects	44
2.	Minor defects	21
3.	Repairs or structural defects	85
4.	Suitable for Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	15
5.	Unfit	26

In addition nine cases of overcrowding were brought to light.

The work carried out so far in this connection has brought to light a lack of the amenities essential to happy family life and the need for improved housing conditions, water supplies, drainage, etc.

The survey when completed will have a far reaching effect on the Council's housing programme, in so far as many more new houses will have to be provided to replace those found to be totally unfit for human occupation.

The completion of the Council's post-war housing programme will, it is believed, meet the present situation and will result in every family having a house in which to live. Many of the houses occupied however, will still be sub-standard, and it will then be the duty of the Council to raise this standard by dealing with the conditions found by the survey.

It is unfortunate that work in connection with the reconditioning of property is being retarded, due, in the main, to the shortage of labour and materials which are at present engaged mainly on the construction of new houses. Considerable help with this class of work would be derived from the restoration of the Housing Rural Workers Acts, or the provision of similar legislation whereby owners reconditioning property for human habitation might receive grants to assist them in the costs involved. Considerable progress in raising the standard of living accommodation could then be made, and the contentment of the public ensured.

COUNCIL HOUSING PROGRAMME.

No prefabricated type dwelling-houses have been erected by this Council. The post-war houses erected have all been of the permanent traditional type and have been constructed in brick and stone. During the year nine three-bedroom type brick houses on the Ashdale Road, Helmsley site, were completed and occupied, a further 8 on this site were nearing completion together with six stone-built three-bedroom types at Sproxton. In addition schemes were in hand in the following townships :—

Township.	**No.**
Gilling East	4
Beadlam	6
Ampleforth	3
Harome	6

During the year, in order to further their programme, the Council undertook the erection of six of the Airey Rural Type of house and the completion of this contract is awaited with keen interest.

Schemes are also in course of preparation for the erection of a further 20 Airey type houses at Beadlam and 4 three-bedroom type stone built houses at Oswaldkirk. During the same period, houses erected by private enterprise in the following parishes were completed and occupied :—

Parish.	**No.**
Ampleforth	4
Rievaulx	3

A further two are in course of erection.

The Council at the present time own 112 houses situated in various parts of the area as follows :—

Parish.	**No.**
Helmsley	64
Harome	10
Pockley	2
Beadlam	8
Old Byland	2
Ampleforth	22
Coulton	3
Cawton	1
Total	112

The repair and maintenance of these houses is a responsibility of my Department and during the year the following defects were remedied :—

Roof repaired	17
Floors repaired	5
Windows repaired	5
Doors repaired	6
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	9
Defective eaves, gutter and down spouts repaired	3
Yards repaired or renewed	4
Coppers renewed	3
Coppers repaired	6
Gate posts renewed	2
Lavatory basins provided	12
Water Services repaired	40
Ball-Taps repaired	10
New boilers provided	4
Electrical repairs	8
Plaster renewed	6
Ranges repaired or renewed	30
Walls repaired or rebuilt	3

During the year the Council House at Cawton which was totally destroyed by fire was reconstructed and reoccupied.

Owing to the lack of proper sewage disposal schemes in all parishes except Helmsley and Oswaldkirk the Council Houses are drained into septic tanks and a considerable amount of work is entailed in cleansing.

There is a large volume of repair work still requiring to be put in hand in connection with the Council Housing Estates, and prompt action in carrying out these repairs is not always possible, due to the local building labour force being fully engaged on new housing work. I would recommend that the Council carefully consider the question of the provision of staff to undertake this work by direct labour which would no doubt prove most economical, and would result in the prompt attention to works of repair to the Council Houses and add to the life of the Council's property.

TEMPORARY HOUSING.

The Military Camp at Ampleforth continues to be occupied by Squatters and is administered by the Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health. At the end of the year 16 Nissen Huts were occupied. These huts had been converted to form one family unit of accommodation per hut, and water was laid on to a tap over a sink, a food-store was provided and the necessary drainage. Elsan chemical closets were provided for sanitary accommodation and electricity was laid on. Every effort has been made to provide decent living facilities in structures which at their best can only be of a temporary nature. The Nissen Huts were originally only erected as a temporary measure during the emergency of the last Great War and therefore had only a short life. The outer sheeting of these huts is now quickly deteriorating and continual maintenance has to be carried out in order to protect occupants against the elements.

The housing experiment has been watched with close interest, but whilst it can be said the occupants are housed, the lack of amenities and prevailing conditions are far from satisfactory, indeed, the tenants merely accept these conditions as a temporary measure, and all look forward most anxiously to the day when they will be given the tenancy of a modern traditional house. No doubt within a short time alternative accommodation of a more permanent character will have to be provided for these tenants and their families.

FOOD ADMINISTRATION.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

At the present time there are 348 Wholesale Producers of Milk and Registered Cowkeepers in the district together with thirty-five Retail Purveyors of Milk. During the year 5 new Producers were registered.

The whole of the milk produced in the area, is collected daily and transported by road to a centre for distribution by the Milk Marketing Board.

32 visits of inspection regarding general cleanliness, etc., were made to cowsheds and dairies in the area during the year and advice regarding works of reconstruction to cowsheds has been given in several cases.

Progress in this important service has been retarded during the present year, but it is hoped to speed up this work and also expedite the Rural Housing Survey when an Additional Inspector is again appointed.

MILK (Special Designations) ORDER, 1936.

There are 4 Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk and one Accredited in the area.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Owing to the System of Centralised Slaughtering and Meat Distribution Scheme adopted by the Ministry of Food, no livestock is slaughtered for human consumption in the area. Supplies of meat in this district are drawn by the butchers from the Distributing Centre at Easingwold and on the whole the quality of the meat supplied during the year has been found to be satisfactory.

All butchers establishments in the district are regularly visited and general supervision is maintained. Throughout the year conditions generally were found to be excellent.

There are 6 registered slaughter-houses in the district.

The following articles of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :—

Imported Meat	167 lbs.
Flour	84 lbs.
Eggs	9 doz.
Bacon	7 lbs.

SHELL FISH REGULATIONS, 1934.

No action has been taken during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are four bakehouses in use in the district and conditions throughout the year have been very satisfactorily maintained.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 2 fish frying establishments in the district and these premises are generally well kept.

WATER SUPPLY.

The following table gives particulars of the water supplies in the Rural District of Helmsley.

Name of Supply.	Owner.	District Served.	Nature of Supply.
Piethorne	Helmsley and Kirbymoorside Joint Water Committee.	Harome, Beadlam, Nawton, Wombleton, Pockley, Skiplam, Cold Harbour, and Nawton Towers.	Springs with gravitation by Cast Iron Mains.
Nunnington & Laysthorpe ...	do	Nunnington, Laysthorpe and Stonegrave.	Springs and gravitation.
Helmsley Town	...Duncombe Park Estate.	Helmsley Town	Springs and gravitation.
Rievaulx	...Duncombe Park Estate.	Rievaulx	Springs and gravitation.
Carlton	...Duncombe Park Estate.	Carlton	Springs and gravitation.
Sproxton	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Sproxton	Hydraulic Rams
Ampleforth	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Ampleforth	Springs and gravitation
Byland with Wass	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Wass	Springs and gravitation
Old Byland	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Old Byland	Hydraulic Rams.
Hawnby	...Mexborough Estate	Hawnby	Springs with gravitation.
Oswaldkirk	...W. P. Crundall	Oswaldkirk	Artesian Well
Cawton	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Cawton	Hydraulic Rams
Gilling East	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Gilling East.	Springs with gravitation.
Coulton	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Coulton	Hydraulic Rams
Scawton and Cold Kirby	...Helmsley R.D.C.	Scawton, Cold Kirby and Hambleton.	Hydraulic Rams

A very large proportion of the population of this area derives its water by means of piped supplies. Many of the outlying farms in the district have their own supplies which usually take the form of springs, collected into small brick chambers from which the water is piped to the house.

There are few stand taps in the area and steps are being taken to ensure that, whenever possible, water is laid on to each house, thus permitting the removal of stand taps.

During the year the number of new and existing houses connected to the mains was 20 and in addition 5 services were extended and improved.

EXTENSION OF WATER MAIN.

During the year 550 yards of 3" Cast Iron Water Main was laid in the parish of Ampleforth in order to improve the supply to Ampleforth. The work was carried out by direct labour and P.O.W. were employed.

The water schemes owned by the Council together with those owned jointly by the Kirbymoorside R.D.C. and this Council are administered by this Department and during the year 221 visits of inspection were made to the various schemes in the district.

Throughout the year every effort has been made to maintain regular and sufficient supplies, and also, wherever possible, to improve the existing schemes. Constant supervision is maintained over all supplies and a great deal of care has been exercised in connection with the Piethorne Water Scheme which is administered by a Joint Committee of the Helmsley and Kirbymoorside R.D.C.'s. This supply covers a wide area, including the parishes of Pockley, Beadlam, Harome, Nawton, Skiplam and Wombleton. As it was found that the supply could not meet the demand, the township of Harome was supplied from the R.A.F. Station at Wombleton, and throughout the year this has proved satisfactory.

In order to check consumption and discover leaks, all branches on the supply are metered and regular tours of inspection of mains and services are carried out by Water Bailiffs. In connection with this supply it is interesting to note that a scheme has been formulated for the redistribution of the supply and it is hoped that the scheme will be in operation at an early date. This scheme also provides for the protection of the gathering grounds against pollution. On account of pollution, hypochlorinators were installed at the inlet of the Cold Harbour Reservoir. These were manufactured by Messrs. Wallace and Tiernan, and have given complete satisfaction during the year.

During the year under review considerable difficulties have been experienced in maintaining regular supplies at Cawton, Laysthorpe, Gilling East and especially Sproxton. In these cases it has been found that the demand is greater than the supply of water available. This is due to the ever increasing number of conversions to the water carriage system, and the growing demands of agriculture for increased supplies of pure water which proves that many of the existing supplies, though sufficient in the old days, are now insufficient and stand in need of augmentation.

This, I am happy to say, is receiving the careful consideration of the Council who are taking an active part in the formation of a Joint Water Board, which is preparing a scheme on a regional basis for supplying water in bulk from the Ness springs at Kirbymoorside to the following Local Authorities :—Helmsley R.D.C., Kirbymoorside R.D.C., Flaxton R.D.C., Malton R.D.C. and Easingwold R.D.C. When this scheme comes into operation most of the difficulties of this Council in connection with water supplies will be overcome, as it is proposed to run mains through various parts of the district. This will have the result of augmenting some of the existing better supplies and will supercede several out of date small schemes.

Several of the townships in the area are supplied by Hydraulic Rams, which have given satisfaction during the year, except for minor adjustments which have had to be made from time to time.

With regard to the privately owned Helmsley Towns and Oswaldkirk supplies, negotiations are well advanced for the acquisition of these by the Council. Satisfaction was given during the year except for a short interval, when the supply had to be augmented. This was necessary owing to the large demand of the Military Camp situated in Duncombe Park. The supply was found to be contaminated and therefore immediate steps were taken for its chlorination. Wallace and Tiernan constant hypochlorinators were installed and have on the whole given satisfaction during the year. Difficulties due to the lack of head have been experienced.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Routine samples of the water supplies in the district were taken during the year and forwarded for analysis. Copies of the reports are appended.

Bacteriological.

No.	Date.	Address	Summary of Report.
6694.	6. 7.47.	Tap over sink, Sunnyside, Oswaldkirk.	This water can be regarded as highly satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes from a bacteriological point of view
10413.	26. 9.47.	Hill Moor, Bilsdale.	There is considerable contamination with coliform organisms, all of which appear to belong to intermediate - aerogenes-cloacae, or irregular types. This water is not satisfactory from a bacteriological point of view on this examination.

No.	Date.	Address	Summary of Report.
10823.	5.10.47.	Tap over sink, Mr. T. Ford, Rose Cottage, Sproxton.	There is some contamination with coliform organisms a small proportion of which are faecal. The remainder appear to belong to intermediate -aerogenes-cloacae or to irregular types. This water has too high a coliform count for it to be regarded as suitable for drinking and domestic purposes from a bacteriological point of view on this examination.
10824.	5.10.47.	Tap over sink, Tailor, Gilling East.	There is considerable contamination with coliform organisms, a very small proportion of which are faecal. The remainder appear to belong to intermediate-aerogenes-cloacae or to irregular types. Owing to the high coliform count this water cannot be regarded as suitable for drinking or domestic purposes from a bacteriological point of view.
11346.	14.10.47.	Tap over sink, Mr. Richardson, Rose Cottage, Rievaulx.	There is slight contamination with coliform organisms, a proportion of which are faecal. The remainder appear to belong to intermediate-aerogenes-cloacae or to irregular types. This water falls into the Ministry of Health's classification "suspicious" and cannot be regarded as entirely satisfactory from a bacteriological point of view on this examination.

No	Date	Address	Summary of Report
11346.	14.10.47.	Village Pump, centre of Carlton Village.	There is gross contamination with coliform organisms, all of which are faecal. The coliform count of this water is far too high for the water to be regarded as suitable for drinking and domestic purposes from a bacteriological point of view on this examination.
12405.	31.10.47.	Tap over sink, Wombwell Arms, Wass.	There is some contamination with coliform organisms, all of which appear to belong to intermediate-aerogenes-cloacae or to irregular types. On this examination the water must be regarded with some suspicion for drinking purposes from a bacteriological point of view.
12498.	1.11.47.	Head of spring on moor, Bilsdale. (Bracken Hill).	There is only slight contamination with coliform organisms, all of which appear to belong to intermediate-aerogenes- cloacae or to irregular types. This water may be regarded as suitable for drinking and domestic purposes from a bacteriological point of view on this examination.
12604.	3.11.47.	Spring Head, Hasty Bank.	There is a moderate degree of contamination with coliform organisms all of which are faecal. This water cannot be regarded as suitable for drinking and domestic purposes from a bacteriological point of view.

The maintenance of the supplies in the area under the direction of the Council is carried out by three Water Bailiffs, under my direction ; one Baliff being responsible for ram supplies and two for other schemes.

It is often very difficult to give attention to repairs to defects and complaints, due to the lack of transport for conveying men and materials to the various parts of the district.

This position will also be aggravated when the Council puts into operation the scheme for metering all supplies. Another difficulty experienced is that of carrying out the work of tapping mains, for all new connections, which duty is carried out by the Council. In order to overcome this and improve the service the Council have on order a 10 h.p. Motor Van, and it is hoped that delivery will not be long delayed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of house refuse is undertaken in all parishes excluding outlying farms in the area, on a fortnightly basis and is carried out by direct labour. One 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam and a staff of three men are engaged on this work. Difficulties in maintaining a regular service have been experienced from time to time, and in view of the increasing number of new dwellings being erected together with the ever increasing amount of refuse to be dealt with it has been found that this service is becoming a full time job, leaving very little if any time for other work. This situation has been acknowledged by the Council, and a new refuse collecting vehicle of larger carrying capacity has been ordered. This will speed up the service and will result in less journey's being made to the disposal point.

The refuse is disposed of by tipping and there are 3 refuse tips in the area situated at Helmsley, Ampleforth and Gilling East. The system in operation is not ideal and the tip at Helmsley, which is in constant use is not in a sanitary condition. It is situated too near the town, is infested with vermin, and forms an ideal breeding ground for flies. The tip has been on fire for a number of years and the smell of burning refuse is objected to by residents in the town.

The Council would be well advised to consider carefully the advisability of the selection of an alternative site for the disposal of house refuse, which would remove many of the complaints and lend itself to a much better control of the methods employed for disposal. Many of the complaints are caused through the complete lack of suitable material for sealing purposes which renders it impossible to control infestations. Several efforts have been made during the year to deal with both the fly and rodent infestations, and a certain amount of success was achieved.

During the year approximately 2,000 tons of refuse were dealt with in the area.

In connection with the storage of refuse by householders in the district steps are being taken to ensure the provision of proper sanitary moveable dust-bins, and ash-pits abolished. Bins are provided by the Council to all Council Houses and are sold to private residents in the area.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

At the moment there are only two Sewage Disposal Schemes in the district as follows :—

Parish of Works.	Area Served.
Helmsley	Helmsley Town.
Oswaldkirk	Oswaldkirk Village.

The scheme at Helmsley is out of date and requires modernising, and I am glad to learn that a scheme for the improvement of these works has been adopted. The sewage disposal works at Oswaldkirk have operated satisfactorily during the year.

There are many parishes in the district covering a wide area which are not provided with proper sewage disposal schemes, and a great number of houses in these parishes owned by the Council and by private people employ small schemes for sewage disposal.

Usually they take the form of septic tanks and filters or in some cases land irrigation is adopted.

There is a considerable amount of work to be undertaken by the Council in this direction as the need for proper sewage disposal systems is most urgent. The lack of this vital service is retarding progress in so far as there is a considerable amount of work in connection with the conversion of properties to the water carriage system being held up on this account.

In the parishes of Beadlam, Pockley, Harome, Ampleforth, Gilling East, Cawton, Old Byland, Carlton, Cold Kirby, Scawton and Stonegrave, the position is most serious. At Harome, Beadlam and Ampleforth open ditches receive the sewage in its untreated stage and numerous complaints were received throughout the year regarding the insanitary conditions of these ditches. Whilst every effort to maintain these ditches in a hygienic condition is made by my staff we were not always successful.

It is in my opinion essential that the Joint Sewage Disposal Scheme under the direction of the Helmsley and Kirbymoorside R.D.C.'s for Harome, Beadlam, Nawton and Wombleton should be put into operation without undue delay, in order to remove the present unsatisfactory state of affairs. The position at Ampleforth is also very grave and Gilling East should also have attention. In connection with Ampleforth and Gilling East the Council are negotiating for the acquisition from the War Department of ex. Military Sewage Disposal Schemes. These, if acquired and modernised, will deal with the problem at Ampleforth and Gilling. With regard to Sproxton, a scheme has been prepared and is awaiting approval by the Ministry of Health.

A great deal of work has been carried out by my Department during the year in the cleaning of septic tanks, etc., which receive the sewage from the Council Housing Estates at Harome, Pockley, Old Byland, Ampleforth and other villages in the area. Details are given below :—

Septic tanks cleansed	7
Choked drains cleared	19
Choked sewers cleared	3
Sludge beds cleansed	5
Open sewers cleansed	15

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following table gives details of the number of privies converted to the water carriage system in the various parishes during the year.

Helmsley	6
Harome	3
Ampleforth	8
Gilling East	2
Sproxton	1
Beadlam	3

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Boro Beck, Helmsley and Beck at Gilling East were cleansed during the year.

SALVAGE.

The work of the recovery of salvage for raw material for industry has proceeded during the year, but in spite of publicity and a regular collection service, no appreciable increase has been shown. This is due no doubt to the apathy of the public, who are no longer salvage minded, and do not save their waste for collection by the Council's workmen. A regular collection service is provided throughout the area, once each month, and at Helmsley a house to house collection is made once each fortnight specifically for the collection of salvage. In the outlying parishes, salvage is only collected during the normal scavenging service because the small amount of material being made available renders it impracticable to make special journeys for this purpose.

In view of the serious economic position of the country and the shortage of raw material for industry it is vital that this work continue, and it is hoped that the people will answer the repeated appeals and turn out more salvage.

Whilst every effort has been made throughout the year by the Council to make salvage a success, results have been disappointing.

During the year the salvage collected and sold was as follows

Material.	Weight.	Value.
Waste Paper and Cardboard.	15 tons 8 cwt. 1 qr.	£98 0s. 2d.
Rags	6 cwt.	£ 4 5s. 11d.
		£102 6s. 1d.

From this table it will be seen that a revenue of £102 6s. 1d. was derived but against this, there is the cost of collecting, baling and loading on rail.

During the year work rechargeable to other departments was carried out to the value of £49 5s. 1d.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

There is only one set of Public Conveniences in the Rural District situated in the town of Helmsley. The accommodation here during the summer season was found to be most inadequate and accordingly a scheme for the provision of additional accommodation is being prepared.

SHOPS.

No action has been taken.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been taken regarding the abatement of nuisance from smoke and no complaints have been received during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The only swimming pool in this Rural Area is owned by the Ampleforth College Trustees and is not open to the public. There are no public baths or swimming pools in this area.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE.

Prior to the year under review, the Council appointed a whole-time Rodent Operator under the direction of my Department and a detailed survey of infestations covering the whole of the 28 parishes in the district was made. It was then hoped to proceed with the work of disinfestation but during the year the Council thought fit to dispense with the services of this Operator, and in consequence no proper disinfestation work was carried out.

Some attempt at dealing with the problem was made by the Department and infestations at the refuse tips, sewage disposal works and Council Depot were treated by the Council's workmen with a certain amount of success.

HOUSING AND BUILDING PLANS.

The administration of the Building Byelaws in force in the Rural District has necessitated numerous visits of inspection.

The following plans for new building work were inspected and approved by the Council during the year :—

Helmsley	18
Hawnby	1
Sproxton	2
Stonegrave	1
Rievaulx	4
Harome	4
Ampleforth	3
Oswaldkirk	2
Gilling East	2
Bilsdale	2
Pockley	5
Oldstead	1
Wass	1
	46

CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL.

A considerable amount of work has been devoted during the year to the administration of the regulations governing the Control of Civil Building in the area.

During the year 193 visits to investigate applications for Building Licences were made and visits of inspection were carried out during the actual building operations.

The following licences were issued for work in this area throughout the year :—

Authority.	No.
Helmsley R.D.C.	193
Ministry of Works	39

W.B.A. Priority Certificates were issued in 20 instances.

CONCLUSION.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord and Gentlemen, in conclusion, I wish to convey to you my sincere thanks, and appreciation for the splendid support and happy relations which I have enjoyed throughout the year. I have always received the most careful and sympathetic consideration in all matters affecting the adminstration of my Department from the Council for which I am extremely grateful.

Before concluding this report I feel I must also record the very excellent cooperation, which has always been extended to me by the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. A. T. Blair and the Clerk to the Council, Mr. H. L. Bates.

I am, Mr. Chairman, My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

F. W. STONEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor, and Water Engineer.